

CONGRATS TO ...

Whitefish artist **Shawna Moore**, who was featured in the January issue of *Professional Artist* magazine in an article written by Florida painter Brenda Hope Zappitell. “Balancing a Family Life and Creative Life” interviews five women artists from across the country. Each describes her approach to her art form and how she intertwines art and business with the demands of a busy family life. Moore, who is pictured with her daughter, Pixie, says, “My daughter likes the flexibility of my job, but at times she doesn’t like how much time I spend at the studio or traveling. I want her to see a mother with a strong directive and living a creative, fulfilled life. I feel lucky to have painting as my work and play.” At her studio in Whitefish, Moore creates encaustic paintings that are exhibited at fine art galleries across the country. She also teaches private and public workshops on creativity and encaustic painting. Visit www.shawnamoore.com for a link to the article and more information on her 2013 schedule.



Shawna Moore, pictured with daughter Pixie in the January issue of *Professional Artist* magazine.

Joliet artist **Charles Ringer**, whose wind-driven sculpture, “Super Sonic Spin Cycle,” is permanently installed at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. The colorful metal sculpture, made of old washing machines, will be dedicated during a barbecue, 6 p.m. July 11 at the museum’s Visible Vault.

Kathleen Arvila-Scott, whose pen, ink and watercolor design was the winning entry for Virginia City’s 150th Anniversary poster contest. Artists from across the state submitted 13 entries of original artwork reflecting the spirit of the sesquicentennial celebration and the magnitude of Virginia City’s cultural resources. The Butte artist’s design, “Step Back in Time,” was used to

create posters and advertising for the summer-long celebration, with the original to be sold at auction.



Kathleen Arvila-Scott and her winning poster design

The **Bigfork High School** art class and teacher **Sarah Taylor**, who made the top 50 in a national competition sponsored by Vans shoe company. The Vans Custom Culture contest invites students to win money for their art programs by customizing shoes. Registered schools receive four pairs of blank Vans sneakers to be customized in four themes: Art, Music, Action Sports and Local Flavor.

Billings physician and musician **Sheri L. Rolf**, who served as principal clarinetist with the World Civic Orchestra during a performance June 9 in Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The orchestra rehearsed June 5-9 for a concert that included the Dvorak New World Symphony and the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1. Rolf, who receives her master’s of music in clarinet performance from The University of Montana this summer, also performed in May at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City as part of its annual Amateur Chamber Musicians’ Festival. Closer to home, she plays clarinet in the Great Falls Symphony and is a member of the Yellowstone Chamber Players in Billings.

Butte author **David Abrams**, whose novel *Fobbit* was a semi-finalist for the Virginia Commonwealth University’s Cabell First Novelist Award. The acclaimed “comedy about the tragedy of war” was also a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2012, a Montana Book Award Honor Book, and a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction.

Montana artist **Sandra Dal Poggetto**, who has been invited to illustrate *The Casanova Project*, a fine letterpress book on Giacomo Casanova, edited by Susan K. Filter, and designed and printed by master printer, Peter Koch. Other collaborators include: historian Marla Stone, translators Adam Cornford and Dina Viggiano, and poet Franco Ferrari. The book is slated for publication in Fall 2014.

Emily M. Danforth, whose book, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, was the 2012 Montana Book Award winner. This annual award recognizes literary and/or artistic excellence in a book written or illustrated by someone who lives in Montana, is set in Montana, or deals with Montana themes or issues. The four honor books chosen by the Montana Book Award Committee were *Fobbit* by **David Abrams**; *The Girls of No Return* by **Erin Saldin**; *The Mammals of*

Montana by **Kerry Foresman**; and *The Mountain and the Fathers* by **Joe Wilkins**. A reception with the winning authors took place April 18 during the Montana Library Association Conference in Missoula.

The seven Montanans who participated in TEDxBozeman, held March 22. Featured speakers included **Amber Jean**, a gal with gump-tion who follows her passion as an artist; author **David Quammen**, whose 12 books include *Spillover*, *Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic*; **Eric Funk**, musician, composer, professor and host of “11th and Grant with Eric Funk”; **Jeff Kitto**, a founding member of the Clintons, who has since sung roles with operas and symphonies throughout the U.S.; filmmaker and dancer **Sabrina Lee**; Missoula musician and guitarist **John Floridis**; and 16-year-old singer/songwriter **Courtney Yovich**, who released her first album, *Waiting to be Told*, and was a top-20 finisher in last year’s CMT/NSAI song contest. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to “ideas worth spreading”; the independently organized TEDx conferences showcase innovative local presenters who engage in stimulating and inspiring dialogues.

Montana-born actress **Misty Upham**, who attended the premiere of “Jimmy P. (Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian)” at the Cannes Film

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Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email: writeus@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it’s at least 150 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) or file size of over 300kb (no more than 2mb, please).



“Burning Bright” by Julie T. Chapman



“Early Spring on Squaw Creek Road” by Connie Herberg

Salon Show of Traditional Oils, on display June 21-Aug. 31 at the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey, MI. Schmit, who lives on a ranch near Cascade, is known for her figure paintings depicting historical and contemporary farm and ranch scenes; her painting “Water Girl” is featured in the OPA show. Murray, an award-winning artist who previously worked in Bozeman as a neurologist and is originally from Chicago, displays “Lazy Afternoon, Vernazza” in the OPA exhibit.

Bigfork artist **Nancy Cawdrey**, whose paintings are included in “Miniature Masterpieces,” through May at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, AZ; the Calgary Stampede Artist

Artist **Connie Herberg**, of Shepherd, whose painting, “Early Spring on Squaw Creek Road,” was juried into the Oil Painters of America’s 2013 National Juried Exhibition of Traditional Oils. Her piece was on display May 15-June 17 at the InSight Gallery, in Fredericksburg, TX. Herberg has been an associate member of the Oil Painters of America for two years and has been juried into two National OPA shows.

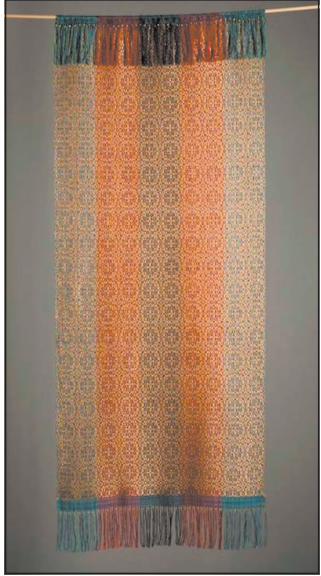
Deb Schmit of Cascade and **Joan C. Murray** of Bozeman, whose paintings were juried into the 2013 Oil Painters of America



“Lazy Afternoon, Vernazza” by Joan Murray

Studios exhibit, July 10-14 in Calgary, AB; and in “Horsing Around,” July 26-Sept. 15 at the Western Heritage Museum in Hobbs, NM.

Fiber artist **Deb Essen**, whose runner, “Circle of Life,” was accepted into a juried exhibit June 21-Aug. 3 at the Business of Art Center in Manitou Springs, CO. The fiber arts exhibit, “Firestorm 2012,” commemorates last year’s devastating wildfire season. Essen, who lives and works in the Bitterroot Valley, says the colors in her piece represent the destruction and renewal cycle of wildfires in the West. Essen completed the Montana Arts Council’s Montana Artrepreneurship Preparation Certification in 2010, and was inducted into the Montana Circle of American Masters in Folk and Traditional Art in 2011.



“Circle of Life” by Deb Essen

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for *State of the Arts*



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How to succeed at art shows and festivals

Posted by Jason Horejs, May 20 at Red Dog Blog:

"The summer art show season is nearly upon us again. Each summer, tens of thousands of artists have the opportunity to show and sell their creations to the art-loving public. Participating in these shows can be exhilarating, terrifying and exhausting, all at the same time.

"I've long recommended that artists take advantage of the opportunity to show their work at art events. Not only do the artists have the chance to sell their work, they also learn first-hand what potential buyers think of their work and get to learn about the challenges of selling their work.

"But how can an artist have the best shot at success in an art show or at a festival? ..."

Read the full story at www.reddotblog.com.

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Festival in May. At a press conference, the Blackfeet actress remarked on the irony that her ticket to Cannes was a film made on her home reservation. "I had no dreams and no way to make a dream. I had to leave the reservation," she said. "So 18 years later ... (I am) coming a full circle to the reservation I left to fulfill my dream." Upham was born in Kalispell and grew up in south Seattle; her many film credits include "Frozen River" and "August: Osage County."

The **Montana Repertory Theatre** of Missoula, which received a \$10,000 grant from the Shubert Foundation. Funds will secure its educational outreach program, which sends curriculum-based theatre and workshops to over 50 communities in Montana; support nationally known and local playwrights coming to the Missoula Colony; and lend operational support for the ongoing national tour, now in its 49th year. "The Montana Rep is gratified and grateful to have been recognized and so honored by this internationally respected foundation," says Artistic Director Greg Johnson.

Billings Family YMCA – The Writer's Voice, and **Lewis and Clark Library** in Helena, which were among 77 nonprofit organizations that received grants to host Big Read projects. The Writer's Voice received \$15,000 for projects involving Charles Portis's novel *True Grit*; and the Lewis and Clark Library was given \$16,000 for programs pertaining to F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. For more information about The Big Read visit neabigread.org.

A **Carousel for Missoula**, the **International Choral Festival** of Missoula, and the **Friends of Big Sky Education**, which were among nine tourism e-marketing projects that received funds from the Montana Department of Commerce. The choral festival received \$3,500 to develop a guidebook mobile event app; A Carousel for Missoula received \$10,350 for a social media and social networking campaign; and the Friends of Big Sky Education were given \$25,000 for the e-launch of the new Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The deadline for the next round of grant applications will be announced in August.

MAPS Media Institute in Hamilton, which received three Emmy nominations for PSAs produced by students for State Farm Insurance. To see the nominated spots ("Graduation Matters," "Distracted Driving," and "Be Prepared") visit vimeo.com/44780700. Students also received a fourth nomination in the Public Affairs/Community Service Category for the "Give Hope" video they created for the Bitterroot Youth Homes as part of MAPS' pro-bono program that offers MAPS services free-of-charge to worthy community organizations.

The **Yellowstone Art Museum** in Billings, which received a \$90,000 gift from Wendy's of Montana and the McDonald family to establish an art education endowment fund. The Wendy's of Montana Foundation has supported YAM since the mid-1980s, with emphasis on the Education Outreach Program.

TRANSITIONS



Bonnie Zahn Griffith

Welcome to **Bonnie Zahn Griffith**, who became executive director of WaterWorks Art Museum (formerly the Custer County Art and Heritage Center) in early April. Griffith, who moved to Miles City from Walla Walla, WA, will train with Mark Browning, former director and longtime supporter of the art center, over the next few months. Griffith grew up in north-central Montana near the Missouri Breaks with parents who appreciated the arts. Her love of the

landscape is reflected in her pastel and oil paintings, which she has displayed at galleries in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Utah. She has participated in the center's Quick Draw and annual Art Auction for several years, and was a featured artist in the 2012 Western Art Roundup Exhibit. In addition to a career in medical imaging, Griffith has held various positions in management and development, including a position as curator at an art center in eastern Washington and serving on the boards of several art organizations. She is currently president of the Northwest Pastel Society. Her arrival coincides with the center's name-change, approved unanimously April 10. WaterWorks Art Museum (WAM) reflects the building's unique heritage. It provided Miles City's drinking water from 1910 until the 1970s when it became the Custer County Art Center. The new name appears on all new printed materials, Facebook, the website (wtrworks.org) and logo.

Welcome to **Sydne George**, who becomes special projects coordinator at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, effective Sept. 2. In her new position, George will coordinate the museum's fundraising auction, "The Russell: The Sale to Benefit the C.M. Russell Museum," held annually during Western Art Week. Born and raised in Great Falls, George graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in editorial journalism and certification to teach elementary school. She began her career teaching in the Great Falls Public Schools before taking time out to enjoy the life of a stay-at-home mother with daughters Mackenzie and Madison and husband, Mike. She writes the weekly cooking column, "Special of the Day," that appears each Wednesday in the *Great Falls Tribune*.

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of **Robert Clifton Morrison**. The well-known artist and educator died April 25. He was born in Billings on Aug. 13, 1924. While still in his teens he took drawing and painting lessons from Leroy Green and J.K. Ralston, and spent much of his free time riding around Billings on his bicycle painting and sketching from nature. By the time he was in high school, he was considered the class artist – nearly every page of the 1942 *Koyote* features his drawings and cartoons. He attended Carleton College in Northfield, MN, for only one year before entering the U.S. Army, where served in Patton's 3rd Army, 89th Division, as an intelligence scout. After the war was over, he remained in Europe for almost two years, his Army duties allowing him plenty of time to soak up the art history of France, Italy, Austria and Germany. Morrison returned to the U.S. in 1947, finished college, and married Berta McPike, a fellow Carleton student, in 1948. He earned his master's in art history in 1950 from the University of New Mexico, and spent summers in Taos, where he was exposed to the vibrant Southwestern art community. The family settled in Billings in 1951 and Morrison taught sixth grade at Jefferson School before becoming District 2's superintendent of art education from 1955-67. He joined the faculty at Rocky Mountain College, teaching art and art history classes until his retirement in 1997. Although he considered himself primarily a painter, his talents covered a wide range of the arts, including printmaking, calligraphy, typescript design, letterpress printing, theater and puppetry. He was always proud of his Norwegian ancestry and took several sabbatical trips to Denmark and Norway where he immersed himself in Scandinavian art and culture. He was a member of the committee that founded the Yellowstone Art Center in 1964 (now the Yellowstone Art Museum), and served two terms on the Montana Arts Council in the early 1990s. He was a founding member of the Stillwater Society and Big Sky Scribes and a lifelong Phi Beta Kappa member. His career spanned many decades and he is well remembered for his artwork and inspiration he provided as an artist and teacher.

– From the *Billings Gazette*, June 2

The family and friends of musician **Steve Powell**, of Big Sky Mudflaps fame. He died April 19 after a long battle with cancer. He was 61, and a founding member and piano player for the 'Flaps – one of Montana's iconic bands. Formed in 1976, they've played every-

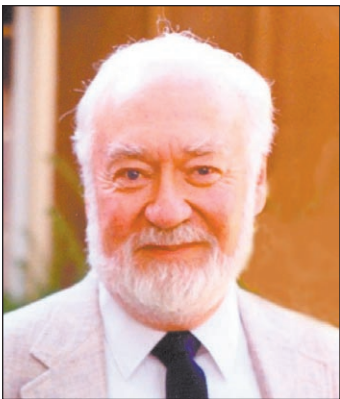


Steve Powell (Photo by Steve Fullerton)

where from backyards and bars to the Newport Jazz Festival. "It was easy to get Steve to smile," wrote his friend Steve Fullerton, program director for radio station KLYQ. "And when he played with the Big Sky Mudflaps or any other little combo that would get together and jam, he smiled a lot. He was right where he wanted to be, surrounded by the music." Powell was a native of the Bitterroot Valley and a graduate of Hamilton High School, who attended Stanford and the University of Montana before settling back in his hometown with his wife, Maureen – bass player and vocalist for the Mudflaps. Music wasn't the only way he gave to the community. He was a Ravalli County Commissioner, served on the board of the Teller Wildlife Refuge, the Bitterroot Literacy Program and on the area Nordic and Downhill Ski Patrol. A land surveyor by trade, he helped found the Bitter Root Land Trust, and served as its director for several years. The Big Sky Mudflaps played a free concert April 11 at the Bitterroot Brewery in Hamilton. "Though he was tired, Steve played keyboard throughout the show," writes Fullerton. "Huey Lewis dropped by, sang a couple songs, and paid tribute to Steve. It was a memorable night. The people who were there didn't want it to stop. Music was his joy. It was our joy to know him."

The friends and family of **Aron G. Strange**. The musician, who founded the Musicians Rendezvous in 1990, died April 21 at his home in Joliet. He was 66. Strange was born in Wichita, KS, on Feb. 2, 1947, and moved to Montana in 1978, where he was the president of Strange Incorporated, a screen-printing business in Columbus. The 2013 Musicians Rendezvous, Aug. 9-11 at Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus, will be dedicated to his memory.

The family and friends of longtime Ronan High School art teacher **Lonnie Harris Smith**. He died May 7 in Ronan; he was 71. Smith was born Aug. 10, 1941, in Des Moines, IA, and grew up in Box Elder. He graduated from Northern Montana College in Havre in 1964 with a bachelor's in history and a minor in art. He served in the Army National Guard and Reserves from 1964-'69. A man very much defined by the place he lived, he especially enjoyed Montana history and creating pottery. He retired after 34 years of teaching, but returned as a bus driver, hauling kids across mountains and through all kinds of weather to music and sports activities, in addition to driving the daily bus route. He was a constant presence in the Sacred Heart Parish and was passionate about Model A Fords.



Robert Clifton Morrison